

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN**

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**Case No. 16-CR-87**

**EDGAR VELEZ,**

Defendant.

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**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION  
ON DEFENDANT'S CHANGE OF PLEA**

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The United States of America and the defendant, Edgar Velez, appeared before me on June 12, 2017, for a change of plea colloquy pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure. *See* Court Minutes for Change of Plea Hearing, ECF No. 337. An interpreter was used to ensure Mr. Velez understood and could actively participate in the colloquy. Mr. Velez, who was represented by counsel at the hearing, consented to my conducting the change of plea colloquy. I explained that it would be for United States District Judge J.P. Stadtmueller alone, not me, to enter the plea and that my role was to conduct the plea colloquy and then to prepare a report and recommendation for ultimate disposition by Judge Stadtmueller.

After Mr. Velez was placed under oath and advised as to the implications of being untruthful, I questioned him about his competency to go forward with the hearing. Through his responses, I found that Mr. Velez was lucid, intelligent, and not under the influence of any intoxicants or substances.

I then discussed in detail each of the subjects specified in Rule 11, including the rights Mr. Velez would surrender by entering a plea of guilty, the maximum penalties associated with the charged offenses, and the authority of the sentencing judge to disregard any recommendations in the Plea Agreement, ECF No. 304, and to sentence Mr. Velez at the statutory maximums. Mr. Velez fully understood the rights he was surrendering and the implications of pleading guilty. Mr. Velez also was satisfied that he had received effective assistance of counsel.

At the conclusion of this colloquy, I determined that the guilty plea was knowing and voluntary and was not induced by threats or by promises not contained in the Plea Agreement. I found that there was an independent factual basis containing each of the essential elements of Count One of the Indictment, ECF No. 1, to which Mr. Velez was pleading guilty. Mr. Velez advised that he was pleading guilty to the charged offenses because he was, in fact, guilty and that the United States could prove beyond a reasonable doubt that he was guilty of the charged offenses. Finally, I found that, in responding to my questions, Mr. Velez was candid, respectful, and non-evasive, fully accepting responsibility for and acknowledging the unlawfulness of his conduct.

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED** that defendant Edgar Velez's plea of guilty be accepted; that a presentence investigation and report be prepared according to the schedule set by the Court; and that Mr. Velez be adjudicated guilty and have sentence imposed accordingly.

Your attention is directed to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and (C), Fed. R. Crim. P. 59(b), and E.D. Wis. Gen. L. R. 72(c), whereby written objections to any recommendation herein, or part thereof, may be filed within fourteen days of service of this Recommendation. Objections are to be filed in accordance with the Eastern District of Wisconsin's electronic case filing procedures. Failure to file a timely objection with the District Judge shall result in a waiver of your right to appeal. If no response or reply will be filed, please notify the Court in writing.

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 13th day of June, 2017.

**BY THE COURT:**

*s/ David E. Jones*  
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DAVID E. JONES  
United States Magistrate Judge